

LBJ: Probe CIA-Students

CPYRGHT

Washington, Feb. 15 (Special)—Amid rising Congressional demands for an investigation of the supersecret CIA, President Johnson ordered today a "careful" probe of the spy agency's ties with American education. A Congressman, meanwhile, charged the CIA with providing leaders of the National Student Association with draft deferments.

The probe was announced by acting Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, who will direct it, assisted by Health, Education and Welfare Secretary John Gardner and CIA Director Richard A. Helms.

Johnson acted swiftly in the wake of disclosure yesterday that the CIA partially bankrolled the student association for 18 years. Another report today asserted the agency has channeled funds to three other student organizations with overseas activities.

The Deferment Charge

Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.) made the draft deferment charge, saying he had information that top National Student Association officers received automatic 2A occupational deferment. "It goes with the job," said Kastenmeier, one of eight House members who called on Johnson to order an inquiry "at the highest level" of the student group's link with the CIA.

The Selective Service System denied knowledge of special treatment of the student association officers, and an association spokesman called the charges "absolutely untrue, ... proven by the fact the present draft status of Gene Groves and Rick Stearns (president and vice president of international affairs unit of the group) is 1A."

The Washington Star said today that besides the National Student Association, the CIA has been channeling money through private foundations to the U.S. Youth Council in New York, the World Assembly of Youth in Belgium and the International Student Conference, based in the Netherlands. The newspaper said three organizations had received millions of dollars over more than a decade.

Student Group Meets

The National Student Association, meanwhile, held an emergency meeting today to discuss its course of action.

There were reports it was considering complete reorganization, even though its officers said most members and officers of student government on 350 campuses in the country, which make up the association, had no previous knowledge of the CIA funding.

It had been reported yesterday that the CIA started pumping big money—\$200,000 or more in some years—into the student as-

sociation to counteract the impact at world youth meetings of liberally-financed Communist delegations.

Regardless of the reasons for CIA support, its clandestine influence on youth groups was condemned today by members of Congress, who brought a renewed demand for more Congressional watchdog power on the agency's dealings.

Chairman Carl Perkins (D-Ky.) said his House Labor and Education Committee will begin an immediate investigation of the CIA tie to the student association. Perkins said he has asked

both organizations for full reports on the student group statement yesterday admitting it had been subsidized by the CIA until the flow of money was cut off last Jan. 1.

Rep. William F. Ryan (D-N.Y.) said the CIA had done a "great disservice" to the American image around the world. He called for creation of a joint watchdog committee to give Congress a better peek into the CIA's operations. Now the Senate and House have separate subcommittees authorized to question CIA officials.



NSA President W. Eugene Groves before meeting of association's National Supervisory Board. (UPI Telefoto)